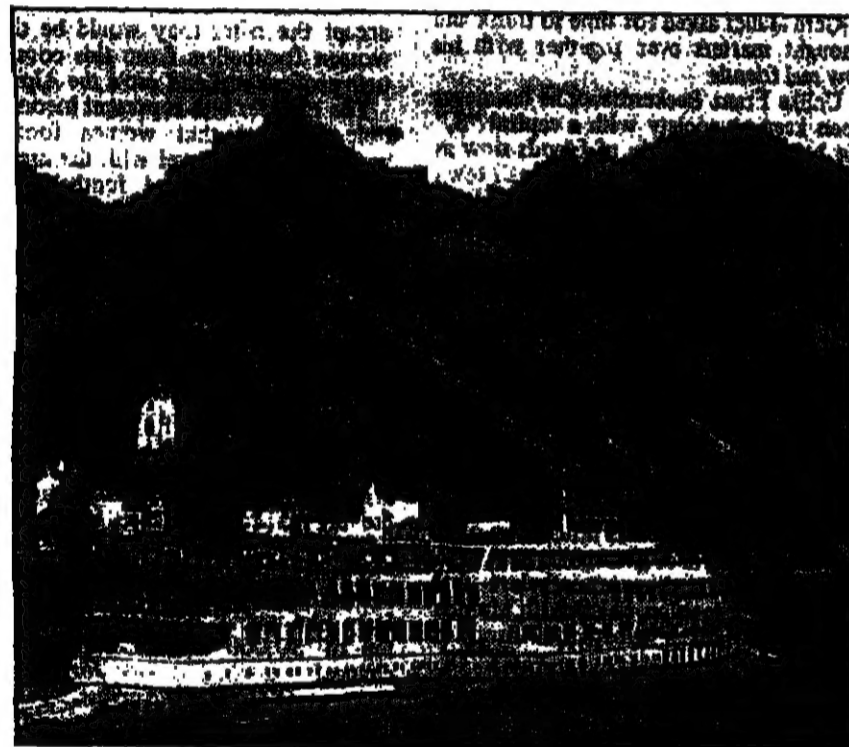
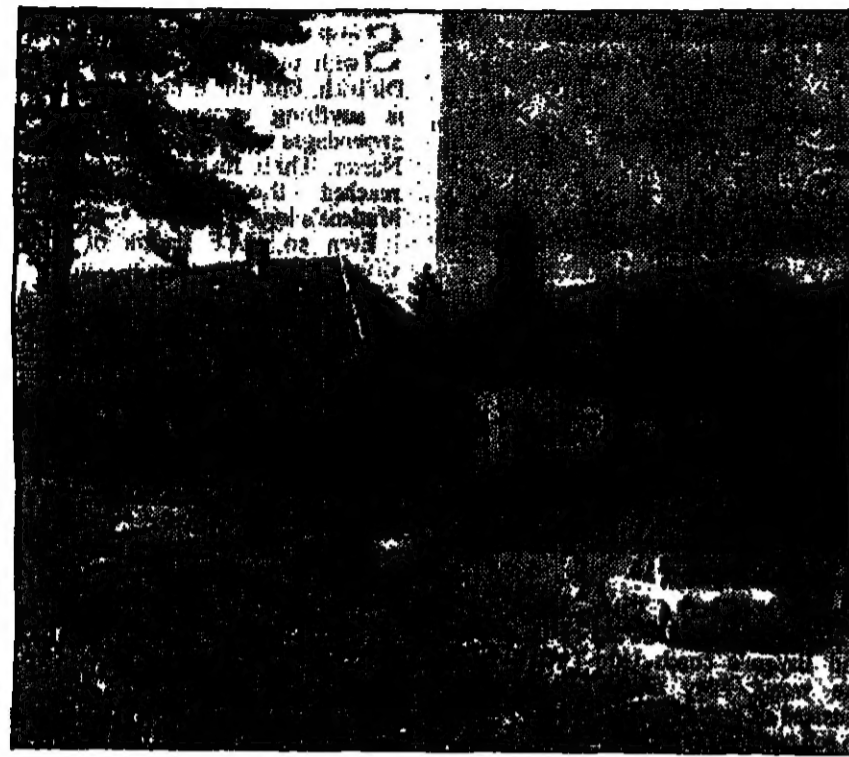


There are many good reasons for a holiday in Germany



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The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C

Hamburg, 16 August 1973
Fifth Year - No. 592 - By air

Defence changes in Europe to be expected

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Washington's great debate on US troop strength in Europe is in full swing. The senate defence committee has called the government's manpower proposals for the armed forces by 150,000, and government and Congressional opponents of unilateral force reductions in Europe are increasingly worried.

In the House foreign affairs committee a fifteen-per-cent cut in current US troop strength in Europe of 307,000 men over a period of eighteen months, and further cuts in a Senate committee and a fresh speech by Senator Mike Mansfield followed.

Senator Mansfield suggested halving current US troop strength of over 600,000 men abroad over a period of three years. The government, anxious to any idea of this kind in the bud, has called heavy artillery.

Assistant Secretary of State Kenneth Rush has warned against undermining the MBFR talks, and Defence Secretary Schlesinger also feels it to be advisable to maintain the existing balance of power rather than to make unilateral cuts.

It is a confusing business. The motion tabled in the House of Representatives will not be tied to a ceiling for military expenditure in Europe, so its stipulations will not be mandatory. In view of the government's earnest a resolution may even be passed.

Were one to be passed, it would be vetoed by the President. But the Senate

talks do, indeed, provide Washington with an opportunity of retaining the initiative. There is a fair likelihood that the only decision Congress will take this year will be a reduction in the overall strength of the armed forces.

As the House has proposed more sweeping cuts than the Senate committee a compromise will probably be reached and the reductions be less drastic than they might have been.

Assuming that the Senate figure of 2,076,800 is maintained, there would be no overriding necessity for troop withdrawals from Europe.

As far as this year and the first stage of troop cut talks with the East are concerned, the situation does not look quite so gloomy, then, but the anxiety of those who want to hold the fort is nonetheless genuine.

They have more than this year in mind, and Senator Mansfield's arguments have a convincing ring for many Americans.

In view of cuts in domestic expenditure and several dollar devaluations, he says, troop costs come in for consideration. The cost of stationing US troops in Europe amount to an estimated 4,000 million dollars a year directly and 7,000 million dollars inclusive of ancillary expenditure.

The Pentagon maintains that bringing the boys back home would not result in savings, but in view of changing exchange rates this argument may no longer hold water. Besides, revaluation of the Mark has hit the US balance of payments.

An additional factor is that the cost of living in this country has increased by leaps and bounds, affecting both serving members of the US armed forces and their families.

Over the next few years conscription in the United States is to be abolished. Despite good pay and improved living conditions there are so few recruits with professional qualifications that the Army is already having to sign on school dropouts and others who are unlikely to make good soldier material.

This state of affairs is bound to lead to

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Davis Cup defeat in Prague for tired tennis acts

As well approve of troop cuts and the government is afraid lest the House table Senatorial sentiment.

Then, is the prospect that the government has sought to avert ever since Vienna round of mutual balanced force reduction talks began. The MBFR



Grand Prix winner

Jackie Stewart won the German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring on 5 August. Stewart did the 14 laps in 1 hr 42 mins 3 secs at an average speed of 188 kilometres per hour. The total distance of the 14 laps was 319.7 kms. (Photo: Wilfried Witters)

realistic and expect changes. Insisting only that such changes as are made take balance-of-power requirements into account in a political climate that does not seem to be fraught with danger all along the line.

This being the case, it might be preferable to indicate to Congress that Europe does not propose to be inflexible but would like to enter into negotiations with the Eastern Bloc in such a way that Nato retains a common viewpoint.

Defence Secretary Schlesinger is right in noting that the usual references to the allegedly overwhelming military superiority of the other side are no longer sufficient to convince Congress of the need for maintaining a troop strength that even America's allies no longer consider to be necessarily sufficient.

A more satisfactory argument in favour of maintaining US troop strength on this side of the Atlantic would be to estimate a feasible power balance. This is what Nato would do well to work on.

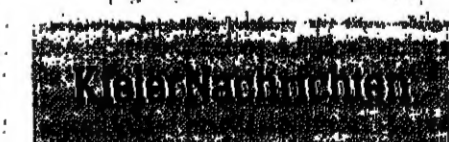
Hans B. Meyer
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 August 1973)

Bonn and Sofia to establish diplomatic ties

Bonn's *Ostpolitik* is slowly coming to a successful conclusion, one of the last hurdles having been scaled now that full diplomatic ties are to be established with Bulgaria.

For several years policy towards the Eastern Bloc has been to come to terms and to aim at détente and the establishment of normal relations with the countries of the so-called socialist camp.

Following intensive talks between Bulgarian and Bonn Foreign Office officials in this country, the two sides agreed to establish full diplomatic relations shortly. The formal agreement



will probably be signed late this summer by Bonn Foreign Minister Walter Scheel during his visit to the Bulgarian capital.

Contacts with Sofia were forged only a few weeks ago against the background of the European security conference in Helsinki. Ties were also established with Budapest, and full diplomatic relations with Hungary are expected to follow before the year is out.

Bonn and Sofia reached agreement relatively swiftly in view of the fact that there are next to no bilateral problems outstanding. Links might have been forged long ago but for the Bulgarian determination to demonstrate solidarity with a fellow-member of the Eastern Bloc and not come to terms with Bonn before ties were established between Bonn and the GDR and Bonn and Czechoslovakia.

All is now clear for swift intensification of relations between this country and Bulgaria, which have traditionally been cordial — a tradition that Bonn hopes to re-establish in Bulgaria's trade relations. Bulgaria is in the process of developing from an agricultural to an industrialised country, and there is ample opportunity for the country to intensify relations.

Hans Opitz
(Kieler Nachrichten, 3 August 1973)

THE STAGE

Erlangen Drama Festival revival is disappointing

Erlangen's traditional International Student Theatre Festival was sabotaged by the students' political protests in 1968. But the event had fallen into a state of apathy anyway.

The productions staged raised no critical claims. Instead of providing a stage for articulating demands that cannot otherwise be made, the Festival had fallen into the trap of becoming *l'art pour l'art*.

Erlangen has had to begin where it left off. A retreat into aestheticism appeared impossible and yet theatre cannot dispense with the quality of expression, especially if it plans to change the real world.

This is one of the inherent contradictions of all drama — and the Erlangen Festival. At any rate student theatre (in the few instances where it genuinely occurs) is no longer seen as a model for the theatre at large.

The largest Festival revealed the contradictions and the shaky link between political and theatrical enlightenment and between the professional and amateurish appearance of the individual ensembles.

Many of the groups appearing in Erlangen aimed at producing a direct didactic effect on various sections of the community. These sections of the community — apprentices for example — were, however, not represented. That is not surprising. Audiences in Erlangen have always been composed of students.

Disappointment was in store for any observer who believed that the Erlangen Festival would return with new vigour after the five-year gap. The organisers had obviously been careful not to open old wounds.

Administrative difficulties also played a role. The Festival depends on subsidies. The municipality, Federal state, central government and industry contributed sixty thousand Marks.

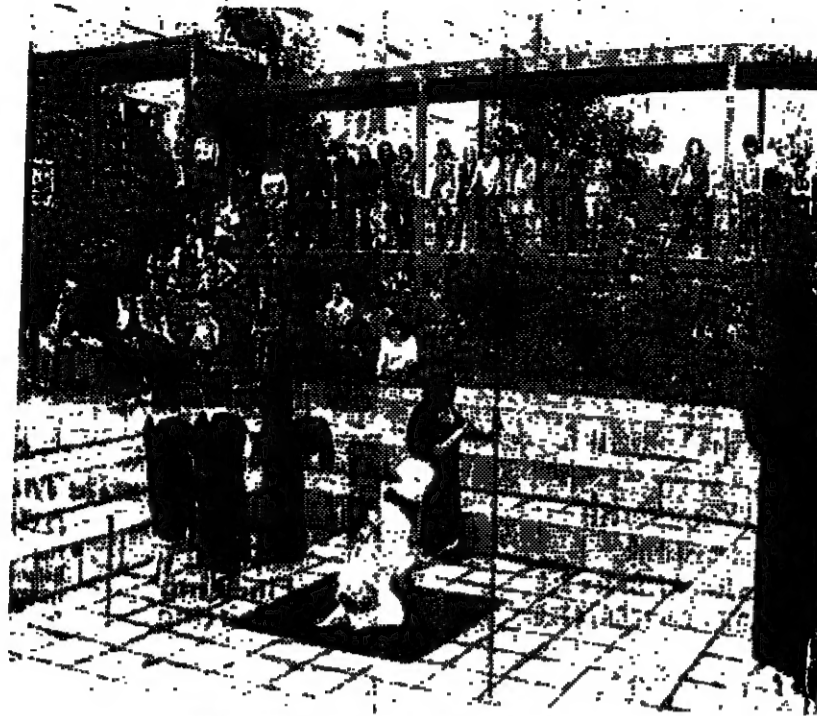
The very first production — 1848, a historical collage by the Theatermanufaktur group of Berlin — was an example of theatrical experiment. It was experimental in the discovery of new material and new methods of expression for the political theatre.

It departed from the Brechtian tradition and by incorporating the methods of pantomime and cabaret, presented a chapter of German history in an entertaining, though informative manner. Instead of featuring the history of the ruling classes, it provided a history of the people.

A Belgrade ensemble came next with a *l'art pour l'art* spectacular which modified style in order to pass ironic comment on theatre by employing theatrical methods. This was followed by a two and a half hour liturgy by the Teatro Dittambico Madrid.

Hoffmann's Comic Theater of Berlin featured next. As the ensemble normally aims to please the inhabitants of the Märkisches Viertel in Berlin, it was appearing at quite the wrong place. The same applies to many of the other groups appearing in the Festival.

But the Berlin ensemble was able to chalk up a success with its working-class drama about the Stulle family. Information was presented in humorous form. The group's shopping spree in Erlangen — which was closely linked with the play — ended with a scene of actively terrorising consumers and the group's ejection. After all a department store is not a stage.



Teatro Dittambico, Madrid, performing at Erlangen

(Photo: S&P)

A group from Rome headed by a Spaniard in exile was also in the wrong place when it staged *Senor Francisco's Slaughterhouse* in the Markgrafen theater. The impressive scenic performance mocked Fascism and pointed to the inadequate journalistic facilities under the Franco regime by intentionally confusing reports on the trial of ten Spanish trade unionists and deliberately destroying the scenic opportunities presented. The next day the group organised a demonstration through the streets of Erlangen.

The Libera Scena ensemble from Naples revealed how barren and irrelevant theatre can be when it immerses itself in hollow artistry. The group presented an extremely tiring distortion of Goethe's *Urfurst* as a farce.

But the Warsaw Student Theatre demonstrated that artistry could be significant and could sharpen the senses. The group pantomime, not to say ballet, presented a fascinating series of symbolic

scenes questioning the relationship of individual to the community and Socialist society.

It can only be hoped that the organisers of the Erlangen Drama Festival learned from their administrative mistakes. Performances must not be repeated according to a stereotyped program but according to their general significance and public response.

Additional time must be set aside for discussion, which should after all form an essential element of the Festival even though there was little evidence of it.

But the most irritating feature at the Festival was the yearning for the good days. The people who loudly acclaim the accomplishments of the past evidently failed to realise that the Festival, though the eighteenth in its history, is actually the first of a new series.

Wilfried Gebler
(Vorwärts, 26 July 1973)

Re-vamped Munich Festival could rival Salzburg

Instead of the arbitrary collection of soloists that can often be heard at a gala evening, Covent Garden and the Paris Opera always work according to this semi-stagione system. Splendid new productions are staged a number of times with the same cast, and are subsequently omitted from the programme for one or even two years before being put on again.

The new production of *Don Giovanni* at the Munich Festival for instance was eventful. No opera house in this country could offer such ideally cast roles as present as Margaret Price as Donna Anna, Julia Varady as Elvira, Lucia Popp as Zerlina, Ruggero Raimondi as Don Giovanni, Stafford Dean as Leporello, Kurt Moll as the Commendatore and Hermann Winkel as Ottavio.



Don Giovanni with the status of the Commendatore

(Photo: Sabine Toppert)

Continued on page 11

Three of the sixteen works staged by Munich's Nationaltheater at this year's Festival are additions to the programme, two have been reintroduced as purely "festival" operas and the others have been provided with fresh appeal in the shape of stars.

Günther Rennert is trying to find a new form for the Munich Festival — the tenth to take place in the new Nationaltheater — and has tried to change its structure by combining ensemble theatre and stagione operations.

Rennert has been justified in his actions by public acclaim. But the press in Munich is still not assured that his course is correct. Both the interpretation and choice of works have been criticised.

The idea of looking upon specific works as a festival repertoire and treating them as such appears tempting, even though this concept contains a number of inherent contradictions.

If for example Mozart's *Clemenza di Tito*, Isaac Yuli's *San Tsyong* or Arribert Refmann's *Melusine* are only performed during the Festival, this decision could be justified by the fact that these works meet with little public response during the normal season.

On the other hand there is also something appealing about the idea of not staging festival works during the rest of the year. This course could always avoid the danger of an opera losing all its attractions in the normal season and then being omitted from the repertoire.

Engaging stars for operas which are performed throughout the normal season without stars can only be justified when, as in Munich, a festival ensemble is formed and required by contract to return next year.

Rennert has achieved his aim of presenting well-rehearsed top-class pro-

THE ARTS

Rolandseck pays tribute to Apollinaire

Guillaume de Kostrowicki, better known as Apollinaire, (1880-1918) the French poet called "the Father of Surrealism" had strong connections with the Rhineland town of Rolandseck.

Sitting on the terrace of the railway station he looked out across the Rhine and described in verse the street flecked with shadows running along the river with the cars seemingly in panic like people tiding, while steamships on the Rhine disappear into the distance.

It was in 1901 at the age of 21 that Apollinaire first came to Rolandseck. He took a look around and decided to stay. He loved the landscape, believed he had found in it the essence of German Romanticism and drew his inspiration from it.

"On the green shores in Rolandseck I sat and dreamed. Roland's nun on the island of Nonnenwerth seemed to lose her age among the little girls," he wrote. The seven mountains, he said, rested like animals. "There they slept, while watching over legendary princesses."

The station in Rolandseck was a great centre of social activity as well as a stopping place for trains. The railway was closed years ago, but every effort has been made to preserve the old atmosphere of the station.

In 1856 rich people from the Rhineland built a railway line from Cologne to Rolandseck, where the station was designed in neo-Classical style. It was a pompous building with huge halls and a "palace" for banquets.

The celebrations continued even after the station was nationalised in 1860. Among the guests over the years were Bismarck, Alexander von Humboldt, Richard, Wilhelm II, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth of Rumania, Heinrich Heine, Clara Schumann and Franz Liszt.

And of course Apollinaire, to whom a large exhibition at the station has been dedicated. The exhibition is also in honour of the Franco-Federal Republic Friendship Treaty, which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year.

At the official opening there was a number of prominent politicians from this country and France, but unfortunately President Georges Pompidou, who had intended to come, had to cancel.

Rolandseck's "Apollinaire Festival", which ends on 15 August, includes lectures, theatrical productions and readings. Why exactly the readings from Alain Robbe-Grillet and Michel Butor are scheduled for after the 15 August closing date seems inexplicable.

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scenes from the two previous productions of the opera at Darmstadt and Berlin were engaged for the Munich Festival — *Melusine*, Refmann's best work, proved once again to be extremely suggestive.

Refmann has now been commissioned by the Munich Festival to write an operatic version of Shakespeare's *King Lear* with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau in the title role.

The new Munich production was only played four times before being put into mothballs ready for the next Festival. Taking into account the star ensembles of the other standard works, especially the new Funnelle production of Debussy's *Pelleas and Melisande*, it appears that the Munich Festival could prove a serious rival to Salzburg.

W. R. von Lewinski
(Deutsche Zeitung, 24 July 1973)



Guillaume Apollinaire with his girlfriend Anna (Photo: Bahnhof Rolandseck)

Pankok Jugendstil exhibition opens in Stuttgart

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

Jugendstil fans, who feel they have been neglected, can visit the Pankok exhibition at Stuttgart Landesmuseum, and they will then probably see why it is so difficult to present an exhibition giving an overall picture of this school. The exhibition is as near to being ideal as could be managed.

The craze for Jugendstil has been with us for years now and we were beginning to get satiated until it became fashionable to be sentimental, and nostalgic longings cried out for less *nouveau* art.

This appetite for something a little decorative in a functional and sober age is not surprising, but until now exhibition organisers have done little to satisfy the appetite.

Bernhard Pankok (1872-1943) was head of the Stuttgart applied art school for twenty years and helped to make it world famous. Much of his work that is still extant can be found in the Stuttgart area today.

But what use is this to the curator of an art gallery faced with the task of reconstructing a complete work of art, a task that seems well-nigh impossible.

Even the most delicate of Pankok's chairs, a work of art none the less, is no more than a single note of a great symphony if it cannot be presented along with the tables, cupboards, mirrors,

pictures, lamps, carpets, wallpaper, curtains, windows, indeed the whole house, that belong with it.

This madness for totality as part of the new feel for life did not exclude even the smallest details such as doorknobs and clothes-hooks. These take forms such as the neck of an ostrich.

When you remember that Pankok was not only an interior designer, but also won fame as a portrait painter, architect, stage-designer and illustrator of books you see quite clearly what it means to enter the sphere of influence of an all-round Jugendstil genius.

The exhibition could not be a complete success, despite the fact that the catalogue lists a respectable 800 items. It could not include the cabin of an airship which Pankok decorated, shunning the flirtations with detail that were so beloved of the age and carrying out the work with functional elegance. The airship's flying days are long since past.

And the two Lake Constance steamers whose interior — and exterior — design were executed by Pankok have long since gone to the scrapyards.

At least Haus Lange in Tübingen will remain for posterity as a glowing example of unbridled Jugendstil imagination. It is now a museum.

Pankok's pioneering spirit manifested itself mainly in decorative arts and crafts, however, and so this memorial exhibition, which is boosted with documentary exhibits, excels mainly in the wealth of luxurious furniture on show.

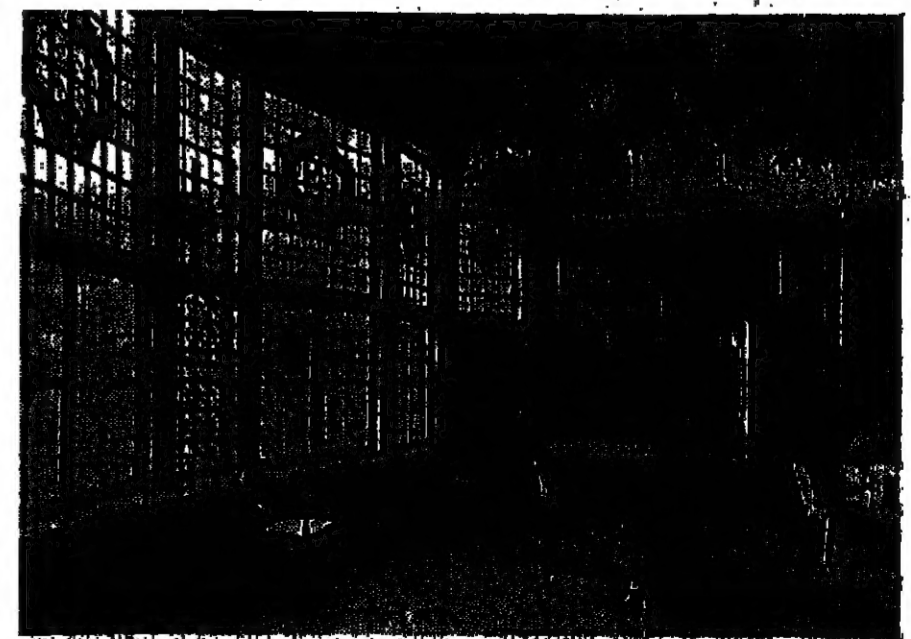
Pankok, born in Westphalia, came into contact with the great stylistic reformers Obert and Endell in Munich in 1892. They had declared war on the era of plush and trash in all spheres.

The first furniture designs by Pankok were almost Gothic with their figures striving for the Heavens and all manner of gnarled excrescences on the joints.

These quickly made him famous and developed into works with the typically anti-historical, individualist and thoroughly elitist tendencies of Jugendstil.

Expensive woods, intricate hand work with subtle colourings usurped over the years the typical old German elements of carpentry. Surfaces became less cluttered, while furniture became more compact and less weighty.

Pankok was never a full-on Jugendstilist so beloved of functionalists. Compared with the mighty surge of technology and social development, this revolutionary appears a reactionary. Perhaps this is fortunate for today, an age when the 1920 terms have become inextricable. (Handelsblatt, 24 July 1973)



Bernhard Pankok's Musikalon which he designed for the World Fair, 1904, St. Louis (Photo: Kallberg)

EDUCATION

Saarbrücken University probes student drop-out problem

Stölner Stadt-Anzeiger

An increasing number of students are tending to break off their course of study before taking their final examinations. The drop-out rate amounts to some twenty per cent among medical, 25 per cent among law students and as many as forty per cent in economics and social sciences. An increasing number of students are also taking longer before daring to sit their final examinations.

It is this latter group above all that Education and Science Minister Klaus von Dohnanyi has set his sights on in the preliminary draft for a framework university law. From the 1976 winter semester onwards students will be expected to complete their course of studies in three or four years.

The main argument in favour of tightening up the regulations is that those students who stay too long at university are monopolising a study place and, in those subjects with entry restrictions, causing long waiting lists with the result that some would-be students are forced to give up all ideas of studying.

Dohnanyi realises that the long-term students' refusal to sit their final examinations is not just the result of laziness. That is why his Bill proposes a tightening up of courses of study and a better student advice service.

It is still rather obscure how these recommendations will take shape in practice. A study compiled by Saarbrücken University's Study Advice Research Department may give some indication of how student welfare can be improved.

The Research Department was commissioned by the Education and Science Ministry to discover the reasons why students break off their course of study prematurely or switch subjects in midstream and also put forward recommendations of how this state of affairs could be remedied.

Four groups were interviewed:

Students who had already studied at least two years longer than the average

period of study required for their subject (long-term students);

Former students who broke off their course of studies after at least three semesters;

Students who studied at least two years before switching to a subject bearing no relationship to their original course of study;

A control group of university graduates who spent no more than the average number of semesters on their subjects and passed their final examinations.

Although only 85 students or ex-students took part in the survey, the findings permit a number of conclusions, especially where study advice is concerned.

One of the main findings was that background played an equally important role at university as at school. The survey confirmed the widespread belief that successful students have generally grown up in more favourable conditions.

Both material conditions and the parents' attitude to education play a part here. One striking feature is that among mothers of successful students there is a high proportion of career training graduates while the mothers of students who break off their course of study have not normally had any career training.

This fact suggests that these mothers place greater emphasis on performance which later leads to their children's success at university. From this it can also be concluded that an extension of the present pre-school system would have a beneficial effect on future students and go some way toward establishing the currently much-vaunted equality of opportunity.

But social differences between the students have nothing to do with their performance. The Research Department's study stresses that there were no marked differences in the social origins of the four groups.

The main difference between successful students on the one hand and the long-term students and drop-outs on the other is one of personality structure.

Students who break off their course of study prematurely are always worried about their health and tend to have

physical disorders. They are easily depressed, allow trifling matters to irritate them, have a tendency to be pessimistic and require a relatively high degree of social recognition.

Long-term students often have difficulties in adapting themselves to situations, they are unable to adhere to conventions and unwilling to accept general ideas of values. They are insecure and tend to feel inferior, though to a lesser degree than those students who break off their course of study prematurely.

Successful students and those who change their course of study in midstream display no features generally specific to their group. Those who change their subject are, however, often victims of an education system that provides school-leavers with too little information about their impending course of study.

The outcome is that students have the wrong idea about what they have let themselves in for and only learn that they have made a mistake after embarking on the course.

Not even successful students could provide any precise advice on the most economical and effective way to study. This is the main problem where they too are concerned.

However, the survey revealed that they were largely free from financial worries. Only 25 per cent of the graduates interviewed had needed to take a part-time job to finance their course of study compared with sixty per cent of the long-term students.

The long-term students had an average of 523 Marks a month at their disposal as a result, considerably more than the graduates in the control group who had only had 355 Marks a month to spend.

But the long-term students claimed that they could not cope so well. Working during their vacation dampened their enthusiasm for studying. They were isolated because the people they had known when they first came to university had all taken their final examinations and left.

The resulting loneliness when preparing for examinations increased their fears. Long-term students were found to be more afraid of examinations than members of the other groups.

The Research Department's study, which forms part of a comprehensive research project, recommends administrative measures and more student advice. Children in their final years at school should be given more accurate information about subjects and courses of study so that they finally make their choice

Continued on page 14

Schools today enjoy more independence

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Schools have followed the lead of universities and demanded greater autonomy and a share in decision-making. Education Commission's latest recommendations reveal a tendency that has long been observed in reports issued by education authorities - the tendency to increase the independence of schools and allow parents and pupils to benefit from the greater room for manoeuvre that results.

A survey conducted by the agency discovered, however, that the school sector does not go any further than as far as those operating at the university level.

Some educational authorities have already taken action. Hamburg is an example. Others are expected to follow during the course of the year. Drafts have been submitted in Lower Saxony, Berlin and the final text of provisions in Bremen and the Rhineland Palatinate planned for this autumn. North Rhine-Westphalia and the Saar plan to follow towards the end of the year.

So far Hamburg is the only federal state to have reformed its education law in line with the Education Commission's recommendations. New legislation is to come into force on 1 August.

Pupils have been given a greater share in decision-making, depending on age. Pupils under twelve are not allowed to participate in the taking of decisions; those above sixteen are now able to, without restriction more rights on the grade and school conferences.

Hamburg has made "sense of judgment" the prime criterion for admission of these committees. North Rhine-Westphalia has decided upon a scheme under which the number of parents represented will go down over the years while the number of pupils rises.

The limits to pupils' sharing in decision-making are revealed in the composition of the decision-making bodies. The three-way party planned in Hamburg, Bremen, the Rhineland Palatinate and Bavaria has little in common with the three-way party at universities. Those committees with an equal number of teachers, parents and pupils have more of a consultative than a decision-making role in nearly all parts of the country.

Some federal states are extremely hesitant about introducing three-way party on their school committees. North Rhine-Westphalia allocates half the seats to teachers and the other half to parents and pupils together.

In Lower Saxony the Teachers' Union (GEW), which generally supported the three-way split at the universities, has called for at least fifty per cent of the seats on all school committees for its members.

But as in the past it will be the state that will take decisions on the most important issues. Teachers in Hamburg will be able to propose candidates for the post of headmaster, and the school conference, consisting of an equal number of teachers, parents and pupils will be able to approve or reject the proposal. But the final decision will still be taken by the authorities.

Schools in Berlin will be able to choose their headmasters from two applicants; schools in Bremen from three. But here too, the candidates will probably be put forward by the Senator for Education.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 July 1973)

MEDICINE

Scientist investigates 'the death wish' among primitive people

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Our ideas of death, especially of the exceptional psychological situation that can lead to a person's death within a few days without any recognisable illness or other external cause, are today still largely based on purely empirical observation.

No precise scientific explanation can be given for this strange phenomenon, not even after studying events which take place in a sphere readily accessible to doctors, for instance a gaol or prisoner of war camp.

In individual cases there may be some plausible explanation for why a convict dies a few days before his release. But one of the great mysteries confronting medicine is the question why persons deprived of their liberty occasionally lose all interest in life as a result of the constant strain to which they are exposed, resulting in total apathy and death within a short space of time.

Sigmund Freud recognised that the inescapable nature of the convict's situation represents an insurmountable problem to him. In his treatise *Das Ich und das Es* he develops this theory: "The ego must also come to the same conclusion when it is faced by excessive real danger which it does not believe it can overcome by its own powers. It sees itself abandoned by all protective powers and allows itself to die."

Freud's definition of the ego allowing itself to die is still the most fitting explanation for a form of death for which no other reason springs to mind. The time

and energy doctors are once again devoting to this problem is outlined in Dr Klaus-Dieter Stumpfe's study of the various aspects of psychogenic death.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the study for contemporary observers is the alarming exposition of how the elementary patterns of behaviour found among primitive tribes also feature in Western civilisation.

Dr Stumpfe describes a number of cases of psychogenic death, the form of death that we Europeans find so inexplicable, most of them based on eyewitness accounts.

One African had to have his leg amputated as a result of an injury, and his condition following the operation was described as good. But he told his doctor that he no longer wanted to live with only one leg, refused to accept any food and died within 24 hours.

A few days later one of the dead patient's friends claimed that the spirits had told him he was to die too. Although the people around him said this was nonsense, the man died three days later.

One of the most impressive examples of psychogenic death is the case of three men who were seriously injured by a leopard when out big game hunting. Two of them had been practically scalped

while the third had no more than a scratch on his throat.

But it was this patient who told the doctor that he was going to die. When the injured men returned to hospital the next morning as instructed, the man with the scratch on his throat was no longer with them. He had gone home and claimed that he was being killed by black magic. He died shortly afterwards.

Of course people brought up to think along European lines will ask what the real cause of death was. But it is practically impossible to answer this question. Neither of the two deaths described here can be attributed to blood poisoning or violently sustained injuries. The injury was considered a taboo and the curse this entailed was the reason why the patients died soon afterwards.

The eye-witnesses named by Dr Stumpfe are writers with adequate critical faculties and they were aware that they were describing a phenomenon incomprehensible to the European mentality.

One of the eye-witnesses notes: "Only know-all Europeans would scorn the fact that a verdict of death passed by priests could kill a person miles away. We Europeans who live in the tropics know better."

As mental influences evidently play a major role here, an attempt has been made to counteract them. This course of action met with success in the case of a twelve-year-old girl who had been forced by a number of boys to swallow baking powder and was told that this was black

magic and that she would die as a result. One of Dr Stumpfe's eye-witnesses employed even more potent magic. He gave the girl a sugar cube coated in essence of ginger. The strength of this mixture made the girl catch her breath - but the curse was broken.

When we learn how calmly these people die as a result of black magic, we are able to understand the comparable cases of prisoners-of-war dying in captivity. In his book *Doctor in Strahograd* Dr H. Dibold writes: "Unfortunately there were also a number of sick people who did not return home because they let themselves go. They lacked the will to think, to move their muscles, to breathe or to feel." American soldiers in Japanese captivity described this strange condition as bamboo sickness.

Similar cases of people allowing themselves to fall sick were observed in the German concentration camps. These persons often died within a few days.

Dr Stumpfe can only guess at the organic basis of psychogenic death. He does not exclude the possibility that this type of death is prompted by the activation of inhibiting impulses which considerably impair the normal physical functions.

The will to die

In the case of the African who had a leg amputated death cannot be attributed to his refusal to eat - it takes more than a few days to die of starvation.

In most cases, though not in all, the lack of the will to live any longer could prompt a physical condition that eventually leads to death. This theory would explain death by black magic or death in prisoner of war camps. But we still do not know the organic reasons.

Alfred Püllmann
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 July 1973)

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